

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) An oral composition comprising:

polyglutamic acid having an average molecular weight of 10,000 to 5,000,000 Daltons or a salt thereof selected from sodium salt, potassium salt, magnesium salt, calcium salt, ammonium salt, ethanolamine salt, and basic amino acid salt as the sole active ingredient in an amount effective to treat xerostomia; and

at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of a humectant, a binder, a surfactant, a sweetener, an antiseptic, a colorant, a nontoxic filler, a disintegrator, and a flavor,

in order to form a composition selected from the group consisting of toothpaste, mouthwash, chewing tablet, oral ointment, gargling tablet, troches, artificial saliva, denture stabilizer, and solution for oral care.

12. (New) A food product comprising:

polyglutamic acid having an average molecular weight of 10,000 to 5,000,000 Daltons or a salt thereof selected from sodium salt, potassium salt, magnesium salt, calcium salt, ammonium salt, ethanolamine salt, and basic amino acid salt as the sole active ingredient in an amount effective to treat xerostomia; and

at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of a binder, a sweetener, a colorant, a nontoxic filler, and a flavor,

in order to form a composition selected from the group consisting of swallowing assistant, candy, chewing gum, drinks, and gummi.

13. (New) An oral composition according to claim 11, which further comprises at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of saccharin sodium, xylitol, sorbitol, erythritol, glucose, fructose, citric acid, and malic acid.

14. (New) A food product according to claim 12, which further comprises at least one ingredient selected from the group consisting of saccharin sodium, xylitol, sorbitol, erythritol, glucose, fructose, citric acid, and malic acid.

15. (New) An oral composition according to claim 11, which is a mouthwash, further comprising at least one liquid carrier.

16. (New) An oral composition according to claim 11, which is an oral ointment, further comprising:

at least one liquid carrier;
liquid paraffin; and
glycerin.

17. (New) An oral composition according to claim 11, which is an artificial saliva further comprising:

potassium chloride in an amount of 0.1 to 0.2 % by weight;
sodium chloride in an amount of 0.05 to 0.1 % by weight;
calcium chloride in an amount of 0.01 to 0.02 % by weight;
magnesium chloride in an amount of 0.004 to 0.006 % by weight;
optionally dipotassium hydrogenphosphate in an amount of 0.01 to 0.05 % by weight;
and water in an amount up to 100% by weight based on the total weight of the composition.

18. (New) An oral composition according to claim 11, which is toothpaste, further comprising an abrasive.

19. (New) A food product according to claim 12, which is chewing gum, further comprising a gum base.

20. (**New**) A method of treating xerostomia, said method comprising:

administering a sialogogue composition comprising polyglutamic acid having an average molecular weight of 10,000 to 5,000,000 Daltons or a salt thereof selected from the group consisting of sodium salt, potassium salt, magnesium salt, calcium salt, ammonium salt, ethanolamine salt, and basic amino acid salt as a sialogogue; and

a carrier to form a product selected from the group consisting of chewing gum, a swallowing assistant, candy, drinks, and gummi to a patient in need thereof.

21. (**New**) A method of treating xerostomia, said method comprising:

administering an oral composition comprising polyglutamic acid having an average molecular weight of 10,000 to 5,000,000 Daltons or a salt thereof selected from the group consisting of sodium salt, potassium salt, magnesium salt, calcium salt, ammonium salt, ethanolamine salt, and basic amino acid salt as a sialogogue; and

a carrier to form a product selected from the group consisting of toothpaste, mouthwash, chewing tablet, oral ointment, gargling tablet, troches, artificial saliva, denture stabilizer, and solution for the oral care system with water supply and suction functions to a patient in need thereof.

22. (**New**) The method of claim 20, wherein the amount of polyglutamic acid or a salt thereof is 0.001 to 10% by weight of the total composition.

23. (**New**) The method of claim 21, wherein the amount of polyglutamic acid or a salt thereof is 0.001 to 10% by weight of the total composition.

24. (**New**) The method of claim 20, wherein the sialogogue composition is administered 1 to 6 times a day.

25. (**New**) The method of claim 21, wherein the oral composition is administered 1 to 6 times a day.

26. (**New**) The method of claim 20, wherein said polyglutamic acid or a salt thereof is the sole active ingredient.

27. (**New**) The method of claim 21, wherein said polyglutamic acid or a salt thereof is the sole active ingredient.

28. (**New**) A method of treating xerostomia, said method comprising:
administering an oral composition comprising polyglutamic acid having an average molecular weight of 10,000 to 5,000,000 Daltons or a salt thereof selected from the group consisting of sodium salt, potassium salt, magnesium salt, calcium salt, ammonium salt, ethanolamine salt, and basic amino acid salt as a sialogogue.